

**From:** Bulletin Intelligence  
**To:** [Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com](mailto:Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com)  
**Subject:** U S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, August 7, 2017  
**Date:** Monday, August 07, 2017 6:58:32 AM

---

Mobile version and searchable archives available [here](#). Please [click here](#) to subscribe.

[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



DATE: MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

## Today's Table Of Contents

---

### DOI In The News

- Associated Press: Interior Won't Change Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument Designation.
- New York Times: Under Trump, Coal Mining Gets New Life On US Lands.
- Associated Press: Interior Watchdog Reviewing Zinke's Calls To Alaska Senators.
- Daily Caller: 3 Goals Zinke Has During Time At Interior.
- Associated Press: Trump Says States Can Count On Federal Cash In Emergencies.
- CNN International: The Battle Over Science In The Trump Administration.
- Bend (OR) Bulletin: Continuing Coverage: Interior Department Reaffirms Protection Of Upper Missouri River Breaks As National Monument.

- The Hill: Why Our Large-Scale National Monuments Should Stay Intact.

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

- 3 Killed, 2 Injured In Shootings On Montana Indian Reservation.
- A Hard-Fought Victory To Restore Tribal Land Faces New Threat In Trump Era.
- Cherokee Nation, BIA Place Ochelata Health Center Land Into Trust.
- Cayuga Nation Leadership Battle Heads Back To Court.
- Creek Indian Tribe Breaks Ground On Native American Cultural Center.

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

- Daily Caller: Trump Readies Repeal Of An Obama-Era Coal Rule Right After West Virginia Rally.
- Associated Press: As E-Bikes Gain Popularity, Land Managers Ponder Future.
- Atlanta Journal-Constitution: In Gold Butte In Nevada, Ancient Rock Art And Rugged Beauty.
- Associated Press: Utah Commission: Keep "Negro Bill Canyon" The Same.
- Washington Times: Federal Court Orders Restoration Of 23,000 Acres For Wild Horses.

### **Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement**

- Interior's Rhetoric Ineffective Against Low Oil Prices.
- Denver Post Analysis: Permits Show Tensions Likely Between Communities, Producers.
- Murray Energy CEO: Trump Supporting American Coal Industry, More Changes Needed.
- Database Illustrates Safety Of US Drinking Water.

### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

- New York Times: Let Forest Fires Burn? What the Black-Backed Woodpecker Knows.
- Associated Press: Blanding Turtle Finds Safe Haven In Nebraska.
- Washington Post: D.C.'s Only Endangered Species Is Shy And Sightless, But It's Having A Moment.
- KFVS-TV Cape Girardeau (MO): Marion Refuge Open For Solar Eclipse Viewing.
- Associated Press: Congressmen Oppose Texas Wildlife Refuge As Border Wall Site.
- Dallas Morning News: Outdoors Notebook: Survey Shows Growth In Number Of Anglers.
- Washington Post: With 'Wind River,' Taylor Sheridan Continues To Smash Western Stereotypes.

### **National Park Service**

- Columbus (GA) Ledger-Enquirer: Deadline Nears For \$70 Increase In NPS Passes.
- BBC News (UK): "Wrong Turn" Kills Doctor In Grand Canyon Hike With Girls.
- Associated Press: One-Time Seasonal Worker Landed Dream Job At Yellowstone.
- Washington Post: After Zero-Tolerance Vow, A Park Chief Cited For Sexual Harassment Gets A Bonus And New Job.
- New York Times: At Statue Of Liberty, Words That Resonate Even If They're Unfamiliar.
- Associated Press: Yellowstone To Create Temporary Bison Quarantine Facility.
- Associated Press: Geese Rounded Up From DC Park Will Be Made Into Meals.
- Associated Press: Nation's Oldest Coal-fired Steamboat Returns To Mystic River.
- Jackson (WV) Herald: Park Service To Host Civil War Railroad Program.
- Denver Post: Outdoor Industry In Colorado Aims To Become Political, Economic Force.
- Denver Post: Historically Black Beach Enclaves Are Fighting To Save Their History And Identity.
- Chicago Tribune: Century Of Progress Homes Tour, Plus Lots To Discover In Columbus.
- Oregonian: Editorial: Zinke Should Leave Cascade-Siskiyou Protections In Place.

### **Office Of Insular Affairs**

- The Hill: Senate Panel Approves Five Interior, Energy Nominees After Delayed Vote.
- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: NPS Awards \$27K Grant To Preserve WWII Sites On Saipan.
- Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR): Dept. Of Interior Awards Territory \$2.4 Million Grant For Infrastructure Improvements On Schools.

### **Office Of Surface Mining**

- Pruitt: Obama EPA "Failed" To Protect Environment After Gold King Mine Spill.

### **US Geological Survey**

- Popular Science: Growing Skin In A Lab Has Benefits For Humans And Turtles Alike.
- Newsweek: Yellowstone Supervolcano Earthquake Swarm Surpasses 1,500 Events.

- Reuters: Magnitude 6.0 Quake Hits Philippines -USGS.
- Los Angeles Times: How A 9.2 Earthquake In Alaska In 1964 Changed Our Understanding Is Explained In "The Great Quake."

### **Top National News**

- CBS: Media Analyses: UN Vote Shows US Efforts To Isolate North Korea Are Working.
- CNN: Mueller Impanels At Least Two Grand Juries In Russia Investigation.
- NBC: Pence Calls Report That He Is Readyng A 2020 Campaign "Laughable And Absurd."
- Bloomberg News: Kelly Tells White House Staff To Put Country Before Trump, Warns Against Leaks.
- The Hill: House Democrats From Border Districts Alarmed Over DHS Waiving Environmental Laws To Build Wall.
- Axios: Axios' Swan: Government May Shut Down Over Border Wall Funding Fight.
- Reuters: Infrastructure Borrowing Down As State, Local Governments Await Federal Plan.
- Wall Street Journal: WSJournal A1: Regulator Penalties On Wall Street Down In Trump's First Six Months.
- Bloomberg News: Cohn: US Must Cut Corporate Tax Rate To Below 23 Percent.
- Financial Times: US Formally Notifies UN Of Withdrawal From Paris Climate Deal.
- Breitbart: Obama Administration Spent Over \$300,000 On Climate Change Museum.

### **Editorial Wrap-Up**

- New York Times.
  - "Trying To Make America A Little Better."
  - "Trump Embraces A Senseless Immigration Proposal."
- Washington Post.
  - "Does The Nation Still Need Affirmative Action?"
  - "Police Chiefs Need The Freedom To Weed Out Bad Cops."
  - "Trump Promised A Trade War. Here's What He's Doing Instead."
- Wall Street Journal.
  - "The United Auto Workers Lose Again."
  - "The Morgan Whale That Got Away."

### **Big Picture**

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

### **Washington Schedule**

- Today's Events In Washington.

### **Last Laughs**

- Late Night Political Humor.

## **DOI In The News**

---

### **Interior Won't Change Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument Designation.**

The [AP](#) (8/4, Daly) reported, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said Friday he is not recommending changes to Arizona's Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, the fifth site Zinke has removed from an ongoing review of national monuments for possible elimination or reduction." The AP noted, "Zinke is reviewing 27 national monuments designated by previous presidents. The review was ordered by President Donald Trump, who says many monument designations are unwarranted land grabs by the federal government. Zinke has removed five sites from review ahead of a final report due later this month. Others removed from consideration are in Montana, Colorado, Idaho and Washington state."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/4, Siciliano) quoted Zinke as saying Friday, "Today I'm announcing that Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument's review process has concluded and I am recommending no changes be made to the monument." Zinke added, "The land has some of the most pristine and undeformed geological formations in North America, which show the scientific history of our Earth while containing thousands of years of human relics and fossils."

In a rundown of upcoming Congressional deadlines, [E&E Publishing](#) (8/4, Cahlink, Lunney) mentioned that "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's final recommendations on whether to alter 27

national monuments is due Aug. 24."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Times](#) (8/4, Wolfgang), the [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (8/5, Sullivan), and the [Arizona Republic](#) (8/4, Altavena, Devoid).

### **Under Trump, Coal Mining Gets New Life On US Lands.**

A 2,700-word, front-page [New York Times](#) (8/6, A1, Lipton, Meier) report says the Trump Administration is "encouraging more coal mining on lands owned by the federal government – part of an aggressive push to both invigorate the struggling American coal industry and more broadly exploit commercial opportunities on public lands." The Times comments, "companies and individuals with economic interests in the lands, mining companies among them," have not "held such a strong upper hand" since "the so-called Sagebrush Rebellion during the Reagan administration." In late June, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "visited Whitefish, Mont., to attend a meeting of Western governors, where he vowed to find a balance between extracting commodities from federal lands and protecting them." Zinke said in a speech, "Our greatest treasures are public lands. It is not a partisan issue. It is an American issue." Yet, according to the Times, "The alliance between Mr. Zinke and the coal industry is well documented in his campaign finance disclosures."

[Newsweek](#) (8/6, Shaffer) covers the Times analysis, reporting that "Zinke has been in the state of Utah since Sunday talking with state and local officials and touring the Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, to help determine their future status under the Trump Administration." Zinke said, "You know our nation can't run on pixie dust and hope, and the last eight years showed that." A tribe member is quoted as saying, "We don't have money. But we have land, water and air. Snuff that out and we are gone."

### **Interior Watchdog Reviewing Zinke's Calls To Alaska Senators.**

The [AP](#) (8/4, Daly) reported Interior Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall said "her office is launching a 'preliminary investigation' of" Interior Secretary Ryan "Zinke's July 26 calls to Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan" in which Zinke allegedly "warned the senators of repercussions for their state if Murkowski failed to support the" GOP healthcare bill. The AP added that "Zinke has called the notion that he threatened Murkowski 'laughable,' but he tweeted a photo Thursday of himself and Murkowski smiling over Alaskan beers at his Washington home. 'I say dinner, she says brews. My friends know me well,' Zinke wrote, adding a beer emoji and 'thanks' to Murkowski."

[CNN](#) (8/4, Green, Marsh, Wallace) reported online that the IG's preliminary investigation follows "a letter sent Thursday to Democratic Reps. Frank Pallone and Raul Grijalva, who initially requested the investigation on July 27." Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (8/4, Volcovicic) and the [International Business Times](#) (8/4, Prasad).

### **3 Goals Zinke Has During Time At Interior.**

The [Daily Caller](#) (8/5) reported, "President Donald Trump's Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke is frustrated with 'the resistance' to getting his senior leadership staff in place," and he "most of the blame on the Office of Government Ethics, which many quietly report to be overzealously abusing its position to review nominees." Zinke also told the Daily Caller News Foundation that he "has three goals for his time in the cabinet: He hopes to restore trust with all the partners of the Interior Department, improve the languishing infrastructure, and thin out the headquarters staff while bolstering the front line staff."

### **Trump Says States Can Count On Federal Cash In Emergencies.**

The [AP](#) (8/4, Thomas) reported, "President Donald Trump said Friday that states can count on his administration to dispense U.S. emergency funds efficiently." Touring FEMA's command center, Trump was "accompanied by Vice President Mike Pence, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Energy Secretary Rick Perry, and Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price."

### **The Battle Over Science In The Trump Administration.**

[CNN International](#) (8/5, Green) reported online, "President Donald Trump has made no secret of his desire to roll back environmental regulations and change the playing field for the fossil-fuel industry," and "his administration's actions over its first six months have followed that lead, including what many scientists say is a full-fledged battle against research and facts." CNN cited how "Joel Clement was director of the Office of Policy Analysis at the Interior Department, until

three weeks ago. Now he's a senior adviser at the department's Office of Natural Resources Revenue – a position he labels an accounting job." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told Congress in June that reassessments will be part of the process meant to reduce the department's "physical footprint."

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (8/5, Henry) said that "government employees are growing increasingly willing to criticize or defy the White House and President Trump's top appointees," citing how "a handful of current and former career staffers in the Interior Department and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have openly shredded their superiors within the last several weeks, continuing a trend that has developed throughout the government over the course of Trump's tenure in the Oval Office." The Hill specifically cited how "in the Interior Department...Clement, has filed a whistleblower complaint against Trump administration political appointees like Secretary Ryan Zinke, saying he was reassigned to the agency's revenue office because of his former research and advocacy over climate change." Yet, an "agency spokesman said last month that reassessments are 'conducted to better serve the taxpayer and the Department's operations.'"

### **Continuing Coverage: Interior Department Reaffirms Protection Of Upper Missouri River Breaks As National Monument.**

The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (8/6, Lipton) reports, "The Interior Department announced Wednesday that the Upper Missouri River Breaks, a famous chunk of river in central Montana that holds a national monument designation, would remain fully protected by federal land-use restrictions." Zinke said, "The monument is one of the only free-flowing areas of the Missouri that remains as Lewis and Clark saw it more than 200 years ago." Zinke said in June, "There is no doubt that" the Bears Ears National Monument "is drop-dead gorgeous country and that it merits some degree of protection," before he added "that the Bears Ears site seemed too large and that different kinds of uses of the land are too restricted, meaning it is 'not the best use of the land.'"

The [Sidney \(MT\) Herald](#) (8/5, Jean) reported similarly, and the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (8/6) provides coverage in a brief.

### **Why Our Large-Scale National Monuments Should Stay Intact.**

Pew Charitable Trusts VP Tom Wathen wrote in [The Hill's](#) (8/4, Wathen) "Pundits Blog" blog that as Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke considers elimination or modification of national land monuments, he should "recommend that the monuments under review remain as they are now for future generations." Wathen argued, "Not only are large-scale monuments vital to protect important 'objects,' but they also provide open spaces to find recreation or seek solitude, serve as habitat for thousands of plant and animal species, and strengthen the economies of surrounding communities."

CEO of adventure travel company "Off the Beaten Path" Cory T. Lawrence similarly wrote in the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (8/4, LAWRENCE) urging the protection of national park lands, opining that President Trump's proposed budget cuts leave "an annual operations shortfall of about half a billion dollars" for the Interior Department.

## **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

---

### **3 Killed, 2 Injured In Shootings On Montana Indian Reservation.**

[CBS News](#) (8/6) reports online that Crow Tribal Chairman Alvin Not Afraid Jr. said in a statement that Methamphetamine "and gang activity were factors in a residential shooting that killed three people and injured two others on Montana's Crow Indian Reservation" on Friday. Not Afraid said in his statement on Saturday, "Drugs have a devastating affect on our communities, and yesterday's incident is a reminder of that." The FBI, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Montana Highway Patrol and the Big Horn County Sheriff's Office are investigating the shooting.

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (8/6) and the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (8/5, Kordenbrock).

### **A Hard-Fought Victory To Restore Tribal Land Faces New Threat In Trump Era.**

In a 2,000-word analysis, [Huffington Post](#) (8/4, D'angelo) contributor Chris D'angelo wrote that although "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke vowed to be an advocate for America's indigenous communities and their right to self-determination," "a major change to the Department of the Interior's Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations...is the latest example of Zinke and the

Trump administration not living up to their promises to native peoples, former Interior officials say." The Interior Department reportedly announced a "revised strategy" last week that it said "will more effectively allocate" the remaining \$540 million from the landmark settlement in Cobell v. Salazar. D'angelo highlighted opinion that this was "a move that will widely impact Indian communities without any formal government-to-government consultation."

### **Cherokee Nation, BIA Place Ochelata Health Center Land Into Trust.**

The [Bartlesville \(OK\) Examiner-Enterprise](#) (8/4, Day) reported, "The Bureau of Indian Affairs' Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office agreed to place 240 acres owned by the Cherokee Nation into federal trust." The deed was signed by Principal Chief Bill John Baker and BIA Deputy Regional Director Jessie Durham. The Examiner-Enterprise noted that "the \$10 million facility was part of the tribe's \$100 million health-care improvement program," and it "replaced a 5,000-square-foot health center in Bartlesville."

### **Cayuga Nation Leadership Battle Heads Back To Court.**

The [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (8/4) reported, "The ongoing battle for control of the Cayuga Nation in central New York is heading back to court," as the "Cayuga Nation Council on Friday said that the federal Interior Board of Indian Appeals had rejected a motion by the Unity Council seeking to overturn a federal decision recognizing Clint Halftown and his council as the official governing body of the Nation." In response, "Joseph Heath, the attorney for a Nation group formerly known as the Unity Council, filed a motion questioning the validity of the decision to the Interior Board of Indian Appeals." In addition, Halftown's group "said that it filed a complaint Friday in New York State Supreme Court seeking the return of properties, inventory and other assets taken from its control in 2014."

### **Creek Indian Tribe Breaks Ground On Native American Cultural Center.**

The [Northwest Florida Daily News](#) (8/5, Adams) reported from Milton, Florida, "The Santa Rosa Creek Indian Tribe broke ground on their Native American Cultural Center Aug. 1 at their tribal grounds." The article described how "the cultural center will include an artifact museum with more than 3,000 Native American artifacts, including a peace pipe used in the signing of a treaty between the head of the Crow Nation and the head of U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, and ashes and embers descended from a fire that burned in the Cherokee town of Tahlequah more than 1,000 years ago."

## **Bureau Of Land Management**

---

### **Trump Readies Repeal Of An Obama-Era Coal Rule Right After West Virginia Rally.**

The [Daily Caller](#) (8/4) reported that the "Interior Department has filed a repeal of an Obama-era rule to raise mineral royalties on federal lands." In a Friday regulatory filing, "officials noted the royalties rule had 'several significant defects in the rule that would have undermined its purpose and intent' and made it ripe for repeal." President Trump had said at a rally Thursday night, "We are putting our coal miners back to work. We have ended the war on beautiful, clean coal. We have stopped the EPA intrusion. American coal exports are already up."

[Greenwire](#) (8/4, Marshall) reported similarly.

### **As E-Bikes Gain Popularity, Land Managers Ponder Future.**

The [AP](#) (8/5, Condon) reported, "E-bike use has exploded over the past year," creating enforcement challenges in parks prohibiting motorized vehicles. Pitkin County Open Space and Trails director Gary Tennenbaum "said the program's rangers are receiving an increased number of reports of scofflaws on the trail." The AP added that the BLM "often accommodates mountain bikes and motorcycles on the same trails," and "many routes in the Crown, the popular mountain in the midvalley" in Colorado "are open to both uses." Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association Executive Director Mike Pritchard commented that "when cyclists are huffing and puffing their way up a climb, it strikes some of them as cheating when they encounter an e-biker covering the same ground quicker and easier."

### **In Gold Butte In Nevada, Ancient Rock Art And Rugged Beauty.**

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (8/6, Caldwell) carries a 2,200-word analysis praising Gold Butte In Nevada, which "was deemed worthy of monument designation for historical and cultural assets

but also for environmental and conservation reasons." The piece mentions that the BLM "designated routes for off-road vehicles and a main road, Gold Butte Road, which is designated as a National Backcountry Byway."

### **Utah Commission: Keep "Negro Bill Canyon" The Same.**

The [AP](#) (8/6, Mccombs) reported that the Utah Committee on Geographic Names said Friday that it "voted to recommend retaining the name of Utah's Negro Bill Canyon after receiving conflicting opinions about whether it is offensive." This "recommendation next goes to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, which is expected to make a final decision on canyon's name later this year." The article noted, "Last September, the federal Bureau of Land Management administratively changed the signs at the 'Negro Bill' trailhead to read instead 'Grandstaff Trailhead.'"

### **Federal Court Orders Restoration Of 23,000 Acres For Wild Horses.**

The [Washington Times](#) (8/6, Dinan) reports that the US Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia "delivered a victory to wild horse enthusiasts, ordering the U.S. Forest Service to restore 23,000 acres of critical land as protected horse country in California – and showed judges taking an increasingly dim view of agencies' decision-making." The Times notes, "The horse campaigners won another legal battle last year when a federal appeals court out west ruled that the Bureau of Land Management...illegally removed wild horses from Wyoming territory."

## **Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement**

---

### **Interior's Rhetoric Ineffective Against Low Oil Prices.**

[E&E Publishing](#) (8/4, King) reported that the Interior Department's pro-energy policies will not be effective as crude prices remain depressed below \$50. Pavel Molchanov, SVP and equity research analyst at Raymond James, said, "If oil prices were as low as they were 18 months ago, the best rhetoric in the world could not change the fact that companies are suffering from low oil prices." The Interior is also restricted by the agency's scope, as the department controls drilling activity on federal land. However, the Permian and Bakken are primarily located on state and private land.

### **Denver Post Analysis: Permits Show Tensions Likely Between Communities, Producers.**

A [Denver Post](#) (8/6, Svaldi) analysis of Colorado's drilling permits suggests that the clash between growing communities and energy production in northeastern Colorado will intensify in the coming years. The analysis found that pending and approved drilling permits are being issued for locations in and near towns and other populated areas twice as often as in remote locations. Eight of the 10 fastest growing towns and cities in the state, along with the two fastest-growing counties, are directly in the path of drilling.

### **Murray Energy CEO: Trump Supporting American Coal Industry, More Changes Needed.**

Robert E. Murray, Chairman, President and CEO of Murray Energy Corp., writes at the [Wheeling \(WV\) Intelligencer](#) (8/6) that President Trump has followed through on his promises "to preserve coal jobs and low-cost, reliable electricity for all Americans." He discusses several of the actions Trump has taken, including the repeal of the Stream Protection Rule, an executive order directing agencies to repeal the Waters of the United States Rule, and the rescinding of the Clean Power Plan, among others. Moving forward, Murray says the Trump Administration should eliminate the Coal Combustion Residuals Rule, eliminate tax credits for windmills and solar panels, and end the electric utility Maximum Achievable Technology and Ozone regulations, among other actions. He concludes that "we must continue to fight for fair treatment of the coal industry by the United States government and a level, unsubsidized playing field for our coal in electric power generation."

### **Database Illustrates Safety Of US Drinking Water.**

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/6, story 9, 2:20, Quijano) reported that a new database managed by the Environmental Working Group "allows consumers to go online and see exactly what contaminants are in the water in their area" – a tool that so far has shown, among other things, that "almost 19,000 water systems in the US have levels of lead that could affect formula-fed babies, and 93 contaminants in the nation's water are linked to an increased risk of cancer." CBS adds that although the EPA says that more than 90 percent of the nation's water meets its safety

standards, the EWG says these standards are not "purely" health standards. The EWG also "says water filters can reduce or even eliminate many of the contaminants, but depending on what is in the water coming to your home, the price of a filter could be anywhere from about \$20 to more than \$1,000."

## Fish And Wildlife Service

---

### **Let Forest Fires Burn? What the Black-Backed Woodpecker Knows.**

In a 1,700-word analysis, the [New York Times](#) (8/6, Gillis) reports that many scientists are calling for a new approach to combating wildfires that "basically involves letting backcountry fires burn across millions of acres" – an approach based on the idea that suppressing wildfires has imperiled certain plants and animals that prefer burned forest habitats and has damaged long-term health of forests that need periodic thinning. The same scientists argue that communities should redirect fire safety funds to fireproof homes. The Times adds, however, that such an effort would face political opposition and that "considerable disagreement remains among scientists about exactly how forests should be managed."

### **Blanding Turtle Finds Safe Haven In Nebraska.**

A 1,300-word [AP](#) (8/5, Ursch) report analyzed the classification of the Blanding's turtle, which "is considered endangered throughout much of its range east and west of the Great Lakes and in Canada." Assessing threats to the animal, the AP noted that "in 2013, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials reported that trade of the turtle appeared to be on the rise."

### **D.C.'s Only Endangered Species Is Shy And Sightless, But It's Having A Moment.**

The [Washington Post](#) (8/4, Moyer) reported on the District of Columbia's "lone endangered species: the mysterious Hay's Spring amphipod." FWS spokeswoman Meagan Racey indicated "the Hay's Spring amphipod was discovered in 1938 on property belonging to the National Zoo. ... They were found at additional sites along Rock Creek in subsequent decades and act as metaphorical canaries in the coal mine." Racey said, "They're very sensitive to water quality. The fact that they exist here is good news." Yet, the Post highlighted that much remains unknown about the animal.

### **Marion Refuge Open For Solar Eclipse Viewing.**

[KFVS-TV](#) Cape Girardeau, MO (8/4, Ross) reported online, "The entirety of the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge" in Montana "will fall under the path for the majority of the August 21st solar eclipse." KFVS added, "The refuge is not planning any organized public events, but viewers may view the eclipse on their own."

### **Congressmen Oppose Texas Wildlife Refuge As Border Wall Site.**

The [AP](#) (8/5) reported, "A group of Texas Democratic congressmen are questioning preliminary plans to build a section of President Donald Trump's proposed border wall through" the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. The congressmen say cutting through the refuge "could do serious environmental and economic damage," and are calling for transparency.

### **Outdoors Notebook: Survey Shows Growth In Number Of Anglers.**

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (8/5, Sasser) reported, "Americans took 855 million fishing trips last year, according to a report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Outdoor Foundation," which "showed fishing increased by 2.5 million anglers over the previous year." FWS survey data also showed "that the average mourning dove hunter brought home 22.2 birds during that season, and the average white-winged dove hunter bagged 14.7 birds."

### **With 'Wind River,' Taylor Sheridan Continues To Smash Western Stereotypes.**

The [Washington Post](#) (8/5, O'Sullivan) reviewed filmmaker Taylor Sheridan's latest film "Wind River," which is "a loosely fact-based thriller about the investigation of the murder of a Native American teenage girl on Wyoming's Wind River reservation," and in which actor Jeremy Renner plays FWS officer Cory Lambert.

## National Park Service

---

## **Deadline Nears For \$70 Increase In NPS Passes.**

The [Columbus \(GA\) Ledger-Enquirer](#) (8/4, Adams) continued coverage of the upcoming price hike for NPS lifetime senior park passes. The article explained, "U.S. citizens and permanent residents age 62 and older have until Aug. 27 to purchase a lifetime senior park pass for \$10, rather than the \$80 it will cost starting Aug. 28. The \$10 fee has been in effect since 1994, but federal legislation passed last year increased the fee." The [Cape Cod \(MA\) Times](#) (8/4, Bragg) reported similarly.

**Mixed Reactions, NPS Pass Sales Boom Ahead Of Price Hike.** [WLBZ-TV](#) Bangor, ME (8/4) reported, "Acadia National Park is one of 59 parks across the country inundated with seniors trying to get their hands on lifetime passes. The demand for the passes, accepted at parks across the country, has overwhelmed National Park Service websites and info centers ahead of the anticipated price hike." NPS staffer "Dave Williams said he has been selling the passes nonstop at the Acadia Visitor Center." Acadia National Park spokesperson John Kelly said, "An increase from 10 to 80 dollars is a big leap. An increase in these fees is really part of the ability for the park service to raise funds to do good things for visitor services and other amenities in the park."

**Martelle: Make A Reservation To Visit Yosemite Or Zion? It Might Become Necessary.** [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/4, Martelle) contributor Scott Martelle wrote that Zion National Park "administrators are considering a reservation system for park entry, or for specific park attractions," and "as unappealing as that might be, it could be the best solution to a vexing problem that has been building for years." Martelle added, "A reservation system makes sense, but it may need to be done by lottery to truly be fair"; however, "reducing the load on the most-used and most-overrun of the parks is necessary." Martelle commented, "The parks system has for years faced underfunding problems, with \$11.3 billion in deferred maintenance projects in a department with a \$3.4-billion annual budget – which president Trump wants to slash to \$2.6 billion."

## **"Wrong Turn" Kills Doctor In Grand Canyon Hike With Girls.**

[BBC News \(UK\)](#) (8/4) reported 38-year-old Sarah Beadle "died after a 'wrong turn' when she ran out of water while hiking with her daughter and niece in the Grand Canyon, her husband has said." The NPS "confirmed that a woman's body was found on Wednesday less than a mile from the Phantom Ranch along the South Kaibab Trail." NPS spokesman Kirby Shedlowski "told WFAA-TV that although the South Kaibab trail is shorter, 'that trail has limited shade and no water accessibility on it.'" Officials said "rescuers, who had been searching since 1 August, found her backpack near the junction of the South Kaibab Trail and River Trail."

Jeff Schwartz, a ranger who works in the inner canyon, told the [AP](#) (8/5, Snow, Davenport) that "hiking there can be dangerous, with high temperatures at the canyon bottom routinely topping 100 degrees during the summer," adding, "There is no potable water available along the South Kaibab Trail between the South Rim trailhead and Phantom Ranch or even creek water to use for cooling." The AP added, "Schwartz said rangers advise hikers to hike in the morning or evening when temperatures are milder and there's more shade. Still, it's not uncommon to have one or two deaths a year primarily due to heat or dehydration." Schwartz said, "The environment down there is much less forgiving during the summertime."

[USA Today](#) (8/5, Mo) reported similarly.

## **One-Time Seasonal Worker Landed Dream Job At Yellowstone.**

The [AP](#) (8/5, French) profiled Yellowstone National Park photographer Jim Peaco, chronicling his rise from garbage truck driver to obtain his "dream job" with the NPS. The AP said that over the course of Peaco's "career he's photographed presidents, flown over the park during the height of the 1988 fires, boated onto the 160-degree waters of Grand Prismatic Spring and captured shots of grizzly bears and geysers that have circulated around the world – one of which appeared in a text book."

## **After Zero-Tolerance Vow, A Park Chief Cited For Sexual Harassment Gets A Bonus And New Job.**

The [Washington Post](#) (8/4, Rein) reported that although "in his first day in office, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke pledged 'zero tolerance' for sexual misconduct," the NPS gave former De Soto National Memorial Superintendent Jorge Acevedo "a new job and performance bonus" after investigators found he "made unwanted advances to a woman he supervised – with hugs, lingering handshakes, inappropriate comments about her appearance, and sitting or laying on her desk while she was trying to work." Acevedo "is no longer supervising employees but kept his

\$82,000-a-year salary, according to an agency official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a personnel issue." Acevedo has "denied the allegations and said his staff perceived his actions differently than he intended them."

### **At Statue Of Liberty, Words That Resonate Even If They're Unfamiliar.**

The [New York Times](#) (8/4, Tarbell) covered a Wednesday debate between "Stephen Miller, a senior adviser to President Trump, and Jim Acosta, a reporter for CNN," who "argued about the meaning of the Statue of Liberty and its connection to" Emma Lazarus's 1883 poem, "The New Colossus." The Times said, "Acosta had asked if the administration's immigration policy conflicted with the ethos of the statue. Mr. Miller countered by noting that the poem was not in place when the statue was dedicated in 1886. Instead, the plaque was added to the pedestal in 1903." The Times reported that "Dennis Mulligan, who has been a ranger for 20 years with the National Park Service, which operates the statue, said 'The New Colossus' plaque had been in several locations" and "there are no photographs of its original location as part of the statue's pedestal, but it is believed to have been in one of the balcony areas of the colonnade."

### **Yellowstone To Create Temporary Bison Quarantine Facility.**

The [AP](#) (8/4) reported, "Yellowstone National Park has decided to convert part of its bison capture facility into a temporary brucellosis quarantine facility after livestock and animal health officials resisted efforts to ship potentially disease-carrying bison across Montana to be quarantined." Yellowstone "Park Superintendent Dan Wenk said Thursday the park would bring a portion of the space up to federal and state standards to open a facility where animals could be certified as free of brucellosis, a disease that causes animals to abort calves." Meanwhile, "Park biologist PJ White said the biggest change will be lining two pens with an extra layer of fencing to ensure quarantined bison do not come into contact with other bison or elk, which also carry the disease."

The [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (8/4, Wright) reported similarly.

### **Geese Rounded Up From DC Park Will Be Made Into Meals.**

The [AP](#) (8/4) reported that the NPS said "in a statement that meat from 116 Canada geese was donated to the D.C. Central Kitchen last week," which "will be used in meals the kitchen prepares for homeless shelters, rehabilitation clinics and after school programs." The AP added, "It's the second year the park service has donated goose meat to the kitchen." The NPS explained "the geese were caught in Anacostia Park and euthanized in July as part of an effort to manage the park's wetlands."

### **Nation's Oldest Coal-fired Steamboat Returns To Mystic River.**

The [AP](#) (8/5, Eaton-Robb) reported that the 109-year-old coal-fired steamboat "The Sabino, billed by the Mystic Seaport maritime museum as the nation's oldest coal-fired steamboat in regular operation, resumed public cruises Wednesday from the maritime museum." The more than \$1.1 million restoration of the steamboat "was paid for with public and private grant money, including...a National Maritime Heritage Grant of \$199,806 administered by the National Park Service in partnership with the U.S. Maritime Administration."

### **Park Service To Host Civil War Railroad Program.**

The [Jackson \(WV\) Herald](#) (8/4) reported that the "Petersburg National Battlefield and its park rangers will sponsor a lecture about the importance of railroads in the Civil War at the city's Southside Train Depot." The Herald explained, "This tour is part of a series of weekend programs offered by the National Park Service in Old Towne Petersburg throughout the summer."

### **Outdoor Industry In Colorado Aims To Become Political, Economic Force.**

A 1,200-word [Denver Post](#) (8/6, Blevins) analysis says, "As the heavyweight Outdoor Retailer trade shows decamp for Colorado, the outdoor industry is" an increasingly powerful lobbying force. The Post adds that "with the Trump administration and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke plowing ahead with a review of national monuments that could result in downsizing swaths of federally protected open spaces, the outdoor industry is not about to ease up on the fight for public lands – the lifeblood of outdoor recreation, inspiring a lifestyle that prods Americans to buy more gear that is essentially researched and developed on those wildlands."

### **Historically Black Beach Enclaves Are Fighting To Save Their History And Identity.**

The [Denver Post](#) (8/6, McMullen) writes, "Sag Harbor Hills and the neighboring districts of

Ninevah Beach and Azurest are unique among beach communities in the Hamptons" because "they rank as the oldest African American developments in the Hamptons and are among a handful of beach communities in the United States with African American roots." In contrast, in other cities, "As values soar in surrounding locations, pricing out many second home buyers, historically black beach enclaves from American Beach near Jacksonville, Fla., to South Carolina's rural Sea Islands are seeing sharp increases in development and new home buyers." The piece mentions that "though much of the island chain in South Carolina has been declared a Cultural Heritage Corridor by the National Park Service, that has not stopped developers from chipping away at waterfront locations."

### **Century Of Progress Homes Tour, Plus Lots To Discover In Columbus.**

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (8/4, Lamorte) reported, "The Century of Progress Homes Tour (Oct. 14-15) offers a rare glimpse inside five iconic houses that helped shape the way we live today." The Tribune noted that "the homes were sold to private owners before coming into the possession of the National Park Service and then into the care of Indiana Landmarks, which subleases them from NPS." The piece added, "If you're just interested in a casual peek inside the homes, your best bet is a Saturday (Oct. 14) tour led by National Park Service rangers."

### **Editorial: Zinke Should Leave Cascade-Siskiyou Protections In Place.**

The [Oregonian](#) (8/6, Board) editorializes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke should preserve the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument designation, arguing "Scientists from a variety of disciplines have pushed since 2015 to extend the boundaries of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in hopes of protecting a variety of rare species of plants, animals, butterflies and fish increasingly threatened by climate change and development." The editorial further asserts that the monument has "helped attract tourists to the businesses that have operated successfully on the private land within the boundary," and "in turn, the expansion holds the potential to link the Pacific Crest Trail to Ashland, providing an economic boost to a number of communities along the way."

## **Office Of Insular Affairs**

---

### **Senate Panel Approves Five Interior, Energy Nominees After Delayed Vote.**

The [Hill](#) (8/3, Cama) reported that on Thursday, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee "approved Doug Domenech, who led Interior's transition effort for Trump, to be assistant secretary of insular affairs at the department by a 13-8 vote." The Hill said that "Domenech formerly led the Fueling Freedom Project at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, which advocates for fossil fuels, and previously worked at Interior under President George W. Bush," and "in his new role, he'll oversee the federal responsibilities for American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands."

### **NPS Awards \$27K Grant To Preserve WWII Sites On Saipan.**

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (8/4) reported that on Friday, the NPS announced "\$1.2 million in grants that will be used to help communities preserve and protect America's significant battlefields, to include a project in the Northern Mariana Islands for \$27,000." Acting National Park Service Director Michael T. Reynolds said, "We are excited to partner with public and private organizations committed to protecting and preserving our country's historic national treasures. Through these grants, and the work the grantees are accomplishing, we are ensuring that these hallowed sites are protected and maintained for future generations." The Tribune briefly outlined the funding goals of the American Battlefield Protection Program Battlefield Planning Grants.

### **Dept. Of Interior Awards Territory \$2.4 Million Grant For Infrastructure Improvements On Schools.**

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (8/4) reported, "The U.S. Department of Interior has awarded the territory a \$2.4 million grant for infrastructure improvements on Virgin Islands schools," which "have been made available through the Office of Insular Affairs' (OIA) Capital Improvement Project (CIP) program." Delegate to Congress Stacey Plaskett announced the award on Friday, saying, "The first Grant the Insular Assessment of Buildings and Classrooms (ABCs) Initiative (FY 2017) is worth \$1,947,000 and will be used to address high-priority health and safety deferred maintenance needs across the territory as identified through the Insular ABCs assessment. ... The next Grant, the St. Croix Schools' Potable Water Infrastructure Replacement

Project is worth \$500,000 and will be used to begin replacement of the aging and collapsing portions of the potable water infrastructure at schools on St. Croix to prevent water loss and ensure a supply of clean and safe water."

## Office Of Surface Mining

---

### Pruitt: Obama EPA “Failed” To Protect Environment After Gold King Mine Spill.

During a visit to the site of the Gold King Mine spill in Colorado, EPA Administrator Pruitt said former President Obama’s EPA “‘failed’ at its mission to protect the environment,” [Breitbart](#) (8/6, Starr) reports. Pruitt said, “EPA should be held to the same standard as those we regulate. ... The previous administration failed those who counted on them to protect the environment.” Pruitt added, “I think it’s safe to say if this had been any other company, a BP-type of a situation, there would have been an investigation that would ensue by the agency and there would have been accountability. ... That didn’t take place here. The federal government should not be able to hide behind sovereign immunity when the facts don’t meet the protections. ... In my estimation, the EPA walked away from those folks and left them in a position of incurring damages without taking accountability.”

## US Geological Survey

---

### Growing Skin In A Lab Has Benefits For Humans And Turtles Alike.

[Popular Science](#) (8/4, Baggaley) reported on the research of USGS wildlife disease specialist Thierry Work, who “is studying the virus responsible for a deadly disease called fibropapillomatosis, which causes tumors to grow all over sea turtles’ skin and inside their bodies.” Popular Science said, “Work’s efforts represent the first time that scientists have engineered reptile skin,” although researchers have been building “lab-grown versions of mammalian skin for decades.” In addition, “now that reptile skin has been successfully grown in the lab, the technique could be put to work investigating other reptile and amphibian skin diseases.” The piece speculated that Work’s lab-grown reptile hide could “also be used instead of skin from actual snakes or alligators for bags and shoes.”

### Yellowstone Supervolcano Earthquake Swarm Surpasses 1,500 Events.

[Newsweek](#) (8/4, Lowe) reported, “Observers have now recorded more than 1,500 earthquakes on the western edge of Yellowstone National Park as part of an ongoing ‘swarm’ currently in its seventh week.” An unnamed USGS spokesperson said activity appeared to be “slowly winding down.”

### Magnitude 6.0 Quake Hits Philippines -USGS.

[Reuters](#) (8/5, Maler) reported in a brief, “A magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck south Mindanao island in the Philippines on Saturday, the U.S. Geological Survey said.”

### How A 9.2 Earthquake In Alaska In 1964 Changed Our Understanding Is Explained In “The Great Quake.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/4, Phillips) summarized Henry Fountain’s “The Great Quake,” which is a book “dedicated to the five terrifyingly convulsive minutes around dinnertime on March 27, 1964, when the forces of geological upheaval, normally beneath our threshold of perception, violently obtruded into human time, reconfiguring not only the landscape of south central Alaska but our understanding of earthquakes and the risk posed today by the Big One and Really Big One.” The Times mentioned that the USGS tasked George Plafker to assess the quake-wrought destruction on the ground, and his work “supplies a master key for understanding not only earthquakes but ‘all the geological features and processes that humans have wondered about for centuries,’” Fountain wrote.

## Top National News

---

### Media Analyses: UN Vote Shows US Efforts To Isolate North Korea Are Working.

Media reports cast the unanimous vote at the UN Security Council over the weekend to impose

new sanctions on North Korea, as well as comments Sunday by the Chinese foreign minister urging Pyongyang to halt its missile and nuclear tests, as signs that the Administration's efforts to isolate the nation are finding some success.

In its lead story, for example, the [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/6, lead story, 2:30, Quijano) reported, "The Trump Administration's effort to further isolate North Korea may be working. Today, China urged its outcast neighbor to make a smart decision and stop conducting nuclear tests. The scolding follows the passage of the UN resolution at the UN Security Council that imposes tough new sanctions on the regime that could cost the country a billion dollars in lost trade." CBS' Errol Barnett noted that Russia and China "didn't use their veto power and supported sanctions" in "a sign of diplomatic progress for the Trump Administration, which has been trying to convince China to use more of its economic leverage over Pyongyang." [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/6, story 2, 2:20, Snow) similarly said the Administration's strategy is "bolstered" by the new UN resolution. At an ASEAN summit in Manila on Sunday, "Even China, North Korea's only ally, told it publicly to stop being provocative."

[Reuters](#) (8/6, Shepherd, Mogato) reports Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Sunday that new UN sanctions "were the right response to a series of missile tests, but dialogue was vital to resolve" the crisis, which he said was now at a "critical juncture." During what he described as "very thorough" bilateral talks with North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho, Wang said he had advised him to not carry out further nuclear tests.

On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (8/6, A1, Morello) says the "US push to further isolate North Korea appeared to be reaping some dividends Sunday" as China urged Pyongyang to make a "smart decision" and stop conducting missile launches and nuclear tests. Said Wang, "Do not violate the UN's decision or provoke international society's goodwill by conducting missile launching or nuclear tests." Wang, however, quickly added, "Of course, we would like to urge other parties like the US and South Korea to stop increasing tensions." [USA Today](#) (8/6, Bacon) reports Wang said "the dual proposal is the most practical, viable and reasonable solution to de-escalate tensions on the Korean Peninsula while providing a 'way out' of the nuclear issue."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/6, Chaitin) reports South Korean President Moon Jae-in "requested a call Sunday evening with President Trump," and the two "welcomed the new international sanctions on North Korea unanimously passed" by the UN Security Council on Saturday.

The [New York Times](#) (8/6, Harris) reports Secretary of State Tillerson "hailed in his typically understated fashion the United Nations vote." Speaking to reporters in Manila, Tillerson said "with a smile" that "it was a good outcome." According to the [Washington Times](#) (8/6, Boyer), the Administration "says it has momentum to exert more international pressure on North Korea," following Saturday's unanimous vote. In a statement, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said President Trump "appreciates China's and Russia's cooperation in securing passage of this resolution," and "will continue working with allies and partners to increase diplomatic and economic pressure on North Korea to end its threatening and destabilizing behavior."

[USA Today](#) (8/5, Stanglin) reports Ambassador Haley said the vote "put the North Korean dictator on notice" and represented a "strong, united step holding North Korea accountable for its behavior." [The Hill](#) (8/6, Beavers) reports Haley also praised the new sanctions on [Fox News Sunday Morning Futures](#), saying that it was time for North Korea to "realize we are not playing anymore."

The [AP](#) (8/6, Lederman) reports the Administration "cautiously embraced China's apparent newfound cooperation" after it voted Saturday in favor of new sanctions, "while putting it on notice that the US would be watching closely to ensure it didn't ease up on North Korea if and when the world's attention is diverted elsewhere." Still, there were "no signs the US would acquiesce to China's call for a quick return to negotiations."

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/6) reports Chinese President Xi Jinping "appears to again be back in Donald Trump's good graces – at least for now." Last week, "it looked as if the leaders of the world's biggest economies were on a collision course," but that "all changed with a breakthrough at the United Nations on Saturday." After a month of talks, the US and China agreed on new sanctions targeting North Korea's exports.

However, North Korea responded to Saturday's vote at the UN, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/6, Otto) reports, by telling China there would be no change in its policy. According to Chinese state media, North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho restated Pyongyang's policy on the nuclear weapons issue during talks with Wang, but indicated a "willingness to maintain communications with the China side on this point."

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/6, Watts, Otto) report says that while the US scored a victory with Saturday's passage of toughest new sanctions against North Korea, the challenge now is making them stick amid Pyongyang's continued efforts to improve its missile and nuclear programs.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/6, Whoriskey), meanwhile, reports the new sanctions plug "a loophole that allowed North Korea to sell coal to China under the guise of 'humanitarian' trade, even though much of North Korea's coal trade has been devoted to weapons development, not humanitarian purposes, according to recent US court filings." Documents from a recently unsealed US court filing, "combined with another federal case, suggest that much of the money China has paid to North Korea for coal over the years went toward the country's weapons and military efforts."

### **Mueller Imppanels At Least Two Grand Juries In Russia Investigation.**

As President Trump kicks off his summer vacation, coverage of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election intensified. The cable and network newscasts focused heavily on Mueller's decision to impanel at least two grand juries in what was cast as an overall broadening of the probe. Meanwhile, reporting in print and online examined other major developments, including revelations the FBI monitored the dissemination of "fake news" from Russia on Election Day and that Republican staffers from the House Intelligence Committee traveled to London this summer in an attempt to interview a former British intelligence operative behind a controversial dossier on the President's ties to Russia.

In the lead [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/4, 5:01 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) segment, Wolf Blitzer said Trump has begun "a 17-day vacation at the end of a tumultuous week that's seen a dramatic escalation to the Russian investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller"; a revelation that "House Intelligence Committee Republican staff members traveled to London hoping to speak with a former British intelligence agent who compiled a dossier of alleged Russian ties to...Trump's campaign"; and multiple sources' say that "the FBI monitored social media on Election Day last year in an effort to track a suspected Russian disinformation campaign spreading false stories and conspiracies, many aimed at Hillary Clinton."

According to [USA Today](#) (8/4, Johnson), Mueller "is using at least two grand juries – in Virginia and Washington, D.C. – to advance a wide-ranging federal inquiry into possible coordination between President Trump's campaign and Moscow, a lawyer involved in the case said Friday." USA Today adds that "the use of the grand jury located in Washington is potentially significant, analysts said, as it likely means investigators are probing activities that happened within that jurisdiction." Correspondent Kristen Welker said [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/4, story 3, 1:45, Holt) "confirmed special counsel Robert Mueller has multiple grand juries working on the investigation, including in Washington, DC and Virginia," although the President's legal team is "insisting they haven't been made aware of the grand jury, and say he's not under investigation."

[CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (8/4, 6:15 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Wolf Blitzer reported that Mueller is also "already issuing subpoenas for financial records, other documents involving the Trump organization, seeing if there is any connection with the Russians." Sullivan said Mueller's question on whether investments in question had an impact on the election is "perfectly legitimate," and "really is investigation 101." Sullivan explained that Mueller "is following the money, and he wants to see where it leads." In the lead story for [CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (8/4, 6:00 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) second segment, senior White House correspondent Jim Acosta said Mueller's probe is "ramping up" as Trump takes "time off." During his rally in West Virginia on Thursday, said Acosta, Trump "did not mention his eldest son, Jared Kushner, and campaign manager held a meeting with a Russian lawyer" in hopes of securing "promising research on Hillary Clinton."

[CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (8/4, 6:39 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Blitzer acknowledged "some have suggested" Mueller is "going too far," and said the President "has suggested there is a red line," but he said CNN "went back and we looked at the instructions that Robert Mueller received from the Deputy Attorney General, Rod Rosenstein when he was appointed back in May. And it said that he should 'investigate any links and/or coordination between the Russian government and individuals associated with the campaign of President Donald Trump, and any matters that arose or may arise directly from the investigation, and any other matters within the scope of 28 CFR,' which is the special counsel authorization legislation, the law. So, this is wide open. He can basically go wherever the suspicion leads him." National security and legal analyst Susan Hennessey agreed that Mueller has "a very, very broad scope," so if the investigation "leads him to Trump businesses, Trump tax returns, Trump family members, anything else – any other indication of criminal activity," then "that's all completely fair game." While [Breitbart](#) (8/4, Mason) is critical of CNN's assessment, the piece says that "if Mueller does overstep the bounds

of his commission it would fall to [Rosenstein] to recognize that occurrence and take steps to refocus the investigation."

However, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/4, story 3, 1:10, Muir) reported that just "hours after the news broke" Thursday that Mueller impaneled a grand jury, the President was "downright defiant during a campaign rally in West Virginia." [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/4, 5:30 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) broadcast Trump saying, "The Russia story is a total fabrication." He continued, "Most people know there were no Russians in our campaign. There never were. We didn't win because of Russia, we won because of you. That I can tell you." The President added, "Have you seen any Russians in West Virginia or Ohio or Pennsylvania? Are there any Russians here tonight, any Russians?"

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/4, Olorunnipa) says "Trump and his allies are trying to rally his political base with warnings that any outcome other than vindication will be an attempt to thwart the will of voters." Bloomberg adds that the President "followed up" on his remarks with a [tweet](#) Friday morning "highlighting a cable news commentator predicting a national 'uprising' if a member of Trump's family is indicted." According to Bloomberg, "Trump is going on the offensive in seeking to cast the investigation into Russian meddling in last year's campaign in political terms." In an analysis, the [Washington Post](#) (8/4, Borchers) says that Trump's tweet of a clip from the "Fox & Friends" morning show featuring Jeanine Pirro, "Judge Jeanine," has "invited speculation that he or a family member could be indicted" by a grand jury.

Nonetheless, [Politico](#) (8/4, Conway) reports senior counselor Kellyanne Conway in an interview with Fox News' "Fox and Friends" on Friday "sought to downplay the investigation," saying, "Let me remind everyone what the president has said about this. It's a witch hunt. It's fake. Last night I believe [Trump] called it a fabrication. And we know that the nature of these types of investigations become fishing expeditions, where you're just throwing Jell-O up against the wall and hoping it will stick." Conway continued "this White House and everybody involved has said that they would comply and share whatever information that they do have." She added, "On this matter of the investigation, Ty Cobb, a special counsel to the president, has said that anything that accelerates the process, we are for. And we will continue to cooperate."

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (8/4, Concha) reports former House Speaker Newt Gingrich "ripped Robert Mueller on Thursday night, telling Fox's Sean Hannity that the special counsel in the Russia investigation represents 'the deep state at its very worst.'" Gingrich added, "The Mueller threat has probably been the most deadly [facing the Administration]. He has the power of the law, he has the ability to indict people, the ability to negotiate and let some people off if they'll testify against other people." Regardless, Gingrich asserted the President is "making progress every week, he's getting things done. He's beginning to move toward a tax cut bill that will be historic. He's gotten more judges approved than Obama had at this point, Obama and a Democratic Congress. Despite everything, I think the Trump system is beginning to work."

[The Hill](#) (8/4, Carney) "Floor Action" blog reports Sen. Lindsey Graham told Fox News on Friday that while he and Sen. Cory Booker have introduced legislation to protect Mueller from dismissal, he plans to "hold Mueller accountable" for any leaks. Graham stated, "If we get constant leaks coming out of the grand jury then he needs to be held accountable for that. That's not fair to the president." He added, "No American, including President Trump or his team, should have the contents of a grand jury leaked out into the press selectively."

The Daily Beast's Washington bureau correspondent, Jackie Kuchinich, said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/4, 5:35 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that she viewed Trump's comments at the Thursday rally as not "just a rant," but an "us-versus-them message" that appeals to his base's unhappiness with the Administration's struggles.

**NYTimes A1: Mueller's Team Has Asked White House For Documents On Flynn.** The [New York Times](#) (8/4, A1, Rosenberg, Apuzzo, Schmidt) reports in a front-page article that investigators working for Mueller have "asked the White House for documents related to the former national security adviser Michael T. Flynn, and have questioned witnesses about whether he was secretly paid by the Turkish government during the final months of the presidential campaign, according to people close to the investigation." The Times states that while "not a formal subpoena, the document request is the first known instance of Mr. Mueller's team asking the White House to hand over records." According to the Times, Flynn declined to comment while Trump's special counsel Ty Cobb stated, "We've said before we're collaborating with the special counsel on an ongoing basis." Cobb added, "It's full cooperation mode as far as we are concerned."

**FBI Tracked "Fake News" From Russia On Election Day.** In an exclusive, [CNN](#) (8/4, Prokupecz, Brown, Perez) reports that on Election Day last year, "dozens" of agents and analysts at the Federal Bureau of Investigation "huddled at a command center arrayed with large

monitoring screens at the FBI headquarters in Washington watching for security threats, according to multiple sources," and "monitored social media...in an effort to track a suspected Russian disinformation campaign utilizing 'fake news.'"

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/4, 5:06 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) crime and justice correspondent Shimon Prokupecz reported the counterintelligence analysts and investigators tracked social media activity and suspected Russian links revealing disparaging information about Hillary Clinton, "including about her health." Justice correspondent Pamela Brown said various agencies were "holding these conference calls every three hours" and that "some issues...popped up across the country," though FBI officials said no major incidents or disruptions to the vote took place and "the FBI has declined to comment on this one."

[CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (8/4, 6:06 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Brown added "there certainly was coordination between the FBI, Homeland Security, and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence," and that "those agencies were holding phone calls every three hours, we are told, with the team at the Situation Room in the White House to discuss any possible problems." Prokupecz stated that the FBI also concluded or at least suspected that the fabricated stories did indeed "come from entities from places associated with Russia," though they did not "necessarily come straight out of Russia."

***Congressional Staffers Traveled To London To Interview British Spy Behind Trump Dossier.***

[Politico](#) (8/4, Watkins) reports "two Republican House Intelligence Committee staffers traveled to London earlier this summer to track down the former British intelligence operative who compiled a controversial dossier on President Donald Trump and Russia, according to three people familiar with the matter." According to Politico, "The previously unreported trip underscores the importance of the 35-page dossier Christopher Steele wrote last year to congressional probes into possible collusion between Moscow and the 2016 Trump campaign." Politico says the trip has "inflamed simmering tensions between House and Senate investigators" since "House Intelligence Committee Republicans did not tell Democrats on the panel, the Senate Intelligence Committee nor special counsel Robert Mueller's office that the investigators were pursuing Steele."

Rep. Andre Carson told  [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/4, 5:20 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) he "was deeply disappointed" that Republican staff members did not inform Democratic staff members about their efforts to discuss the dossier with its author. Carson asserted, "If we're really concerned about digging into keeping America safe, we have to work together, both Republican staffers and Democratic staffers." He did not say whether he believed the Republican staffers tried to discredit the dossier, but lamented "it certainly causes me great discomfort."

***Emails Show NYTimes, WPost Reporters "Less Than Enthusiastic" About Covering Clinton-Lynch Meeting.*** The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/4, Scarry) reports "the non-profit American Center for Law and Justice published emails Friday that showed reporters" from the New York Times and Washington Post asking Justice Department officials about "the controversial private meeting between then-Attorney General Loretta Lynch and former President Bill Clinton just months ahead of the 2016 election." The Examiner says that based on the emails, the reporters seem "less than enthusiastic about covering" the meeting.

***Experts Warn Trump "An Easy Mark" For Foreign Spies.*** "Trump is proving to be an easy read for foreign intelligence services gauging how his mind works," [McClatchy](#) (8/4, Johnson) reports, according to former intelligence officials, as "the steady stream of tweets flowing from Trump's phone and the leak this week of candid conversations he's had with two foreign leaders throw open a window on Trump's views of the world, his moods and sensitivities." Former CIA director Michael Hayden said, "The president's tweets are an absolute gold mine of personal, detailed information on his personality and his emotional state." Meanwhile, McClatchy says that while "it would be tempting to believe that senior intelligence officials opposed to Trump may be leaking secret information to the Washington Post and New York Times," Hayden and other experts "cautioned against assuming the provenance of leaks." Hayden added, "I have consistently been emphasizing that the leak of intelligence information does not necessarily mean that the leaker is from the intelligence community."

***Reuters Analysis: Trump, Pence Seemingly Disconnected On Russia.*** In an analysis, [Reuters](#) (8/4, Rampton) says while Vice President Pence pushed for new US sanctions against Russia during his four-day tour of Estonia, Georgia, and Montenegro this week, President Trump "took to Twitter to complain that the sanctions legislation, which he grudgingly signed, would send U.S.-Russia relations to 'an all-time & very dangerous low.'" However, Jarrod Agen, Pence's deputy chief of staff, insisted Trump and Pence are "completely aligned" on the issue of Russia. "It was the president's decision to send the vice president to the region. It was the president's decision to deliver the message that the vice president delivered," Agen asserted. Reuters also describes the

apparent disconnect as "an anomaly," and added that Pence typically "goes to lengths to emphasize his loyalty to his boss and to downplay any differences."

**Veselnitskaya Recounts Meeting With Trump Jr.** The [Washington Times](#) (8/4, Sands) reports Natalia Veselnitskaya, "the Russian lawyer whose June 2016 meeting with Donald Trump Jr. and other top Trump campaign officials has become a prime focus of the Russian election collusion probe," in a 10-minute interview with Russian news program Vesti "den[ied] the meeting involved Hillary Clinton or the U.S. campaign, adding the congressional probes into the scandal are not interested in hearing her side of the story," according to the Moscow Times on Friday. Instead, Veselnitskaya "said she sought the meeting as part of her efforts to help Russian businessman Denis Katsyv, a client who was accused of money laundering after the U.S. imposed new financial sanctions on Moscow in 2012." Veselnitskaya asserted the meeting "had nothing to do with [then-candidate Donald Trump's] rivals or the presidential election. ... That never happened. That's not true."

**German Foreign Minister: New US Sanctions On Russia "More Than Problematic."** [Reuters](#) (8/4, Martin, Nasr) reports German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said Friday that new US sanctions against Russia "more than problematic" because "the draft law makes clear that they're pursuing economic interests and we think that's not acceptable." He added, "Aggressively combining foreign policy issues with American economic interests and saying: we want to drive Russian gas out of the European market so we can sell American gas there is definitely not something we can accept."

In an analysis headlined "Who Loses The Most In U.S.-Russia Sanctions Fight," [Bloomberg News](#) (8/4, Arnold) says that whereas the sanctions impact on the Russian economy seems "less than dramatic, from all appearances," the EU in contrast "could suffer collateral damage." Bloomberg also notes that Russia is also expelling US diplomats and their families in retaliation.

**Marcus Pledges Columns Castigating Trump "Will Continue Until The Danger Subsides."** In her [Washington Post](#) (8/4, Marcus) column, which is titled "Trump Is A One-man Assault On The Rule Of Law," Ruth Marcus condemns the President for his reaction to learning that Mueller has impaneled a grand jury. She asserts that Trump dominates the topic of her columns because "his behavior is so extreme and so dangerous that to respond only episodically and occasionally is to risk allowing it to appear acceptable." Marcus concludes "outrageous words and outrageous actions require expressions of outrage in return, each and every time. That will continue until the danger subsides."

### **Pence Calls Report That He Is Readyng A 2020 Campaign "Laughable And Absurd."**

In a Sunday morning statement, Vice President Pence strongly rebuked a New York Times report that he may be laying the groundwork for a 2020 presidential run. Most reporting is brief and focuses on the statement, but several commentators expressed skepticism via Twitter, and Politico's Josh Dawsey [tweeted](#), "Some in/close to Trump world perplexed by Pence statement pushing back on NYT story. 'He's just fueling the fire,' one adviser said."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/6, story 3, 1:25, Snow), Kelly O'Donnell reported that on Sunday, "the adrenaline out of the Trump Administration came from...Pence after a New York Times report described a shadow campaign for 2020" with Pence as a possible presidential candidate. In a "[lengthy rebuke](#)", the Vice President called the assertions 'disgraceful and offensive to me,' 'laughable and absurd,' and pledged his efforts to see" the President reelected.

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/6, story 3, 0:35), Tom Llamas said, "Given the President's current predicament, a growing number of Republicans are already testing the waters for a possible presidential run in 2020. And the Vice President is shooting down reports he's one of them." The [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/6, story 3, 0:20, Quijano) reported that Pence "strongly denied" the Times report. The [New York Times](#) (8/6, Baker) reports, "Danielle Rhoades Ha, a Times spokeswoman, said in response: 'We are confident in the accuracy of our reporting and will let the story speak for itself.'"

The [AP](#) (8/6, Lucey) reports that the Times article "notes Pence's political schedule and active fundraising, though it also says unnamed advisers have signaled that he'd only run if Trump doesn't." The Times also reported that Pence "raised about \$1 million at a Washington fundraiser last month" for his own fundraising committee. [USA Today](#) (8/6, Gaudiano) reports that the Times "says Pence's schedule is so full of political events that Republicans joke he's 'acting more like a second-term vice president hoping to clear the field' for 2020."

Sahil Kapur of Bloomberg News [tweeted](#), "Pence is remarkably defensive about that NYT piece. He knows how sensitive POTUS is about even a hint or a perception of loyalty breach." Bill Kristol [tweeted](#), "It's bold of Team Pence to plant the front-page NYT story on plans for 2020,

then object vociferously. Multi-dimensional chess!" Columnist Clarence Page [tweeted](#), "Does VP Pence protest too much????"

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/6, King) writes that "the vehemence" of Pence's statement underscored how sensitive the White House is to any questioning of whether Trump will seek a second term." The [Washington Post](#) (8/6, Wagner) reports that Kellyanne Conway told ABC "that she has 'zero concern' about a 2020 campaign by Pence." Conway said on [ABC's This Week](#) (8/6), "It is absolutely true the Vice President is getting ready for 2020 – for reelection as vice president."

[Reuters](#) (8/6, Cornwell) writes that while Pence is "a Trump loyalist, and there is typically little distinction between his public statements and the policies of the president...as investigations deepen" into Russia's alleged role in the 2016 election, Pence "has put some distance" between himself and the President "on the best way to approach Moscow."

### **Kelly Tells White House Staff To Put Country Before Trump, Warns Against Leaks.**

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/6, Jacobs, Talev) reports that in a meeting with about 200 White House aides on his fifth day as White House chief of staff, John Kelly "spelled out in blunt terms the way things are going to work in the West Wing he now oversees." Kelly told those gathered that "they all work for the president now...and they had to act as one team." Kelly added that "he expects all of them to put country first, the president second, and their own needs and priorities last." Citing the Bloomberg report, the [Washington Examiner](#) (8/6, Siciliano) says Kelly was "adamant that passing along even a small innocuous bit of classified information to someone without clearance constitutes a crime." Kelly "is also reining in the president in imposing new oversight to constrain Trump's Twitter account by offering advice on how to mitigate his often inflammatory tweets." However, "Trump has made clear that he reserves the right to ignore advice on tweeting."

In her [Washington Post](#) (8/6) column, Margaret Sullivan questions whether Kelly can "take on the hardest job of all – hacking through the thicket of lies that the Trump White House produces," and argues that "the prospects for that are grim." Sullivan adds that Kelly "may well be Trump's best hope for saving the White House from utter chaos," but "a grounding in reality – yes, truth – needs to be a part of that salvation."

"Face the Nation" host John Dickerson said on the [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/6, story 2, 1:35, Quijano) that "the reviews from [Kelly's] first week are good, both because General Kelly has been able to tighten up the White House staff, having meetings in which basically, he gets everybody moving in the same direction. He has gotten some of the fight of the egos, apparently in line, it's only been one week of course. And then his other challenge which he seems to be making some inroads on is, how to manage up, which is to say working with the President, a President who loves improvisation, but who is in a job where it is very hard to improvise and not cause chaos."

### **House Democrats From Border Districts Alarmed Over DHS Waiving Environmental Laws To Build Wall.**

[The Hill](#) (8/4, Marcos) reports five House Democrats representing districts along the US-Mexico border raised concerns on Friday that the Trump Administration's plan "to waive certain environmental laws to build a wall could hurt wildlife." The Department of Homeland Security "announced earlier this week that it will use its authority under a 2005 law to bypass laws and regulations when necessary for enhancing infrastructure along the border." The Hill says the waiver "applies only to a 15-mile segment around San Diego" and "exempts projects to build infrastructure like fencing or a wall from laws like the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act and Safe Drinking Water Act." Reps. Vicente González and Beto O'Rourke wrote a letter to Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Duke asking whether DHS was extending its authority over other areas of the southwestern border. Reps. Henry Cuellar, Filemon Vela, Lloyd Doggett and Joaquin Castro also signed the letter.

**Collins: Keeping Up Pretense About Trump's Border Wall Will Mean Money Wasted.** In her [New York Times](#) (8/4, Collins) column, Gail Collins writes that every day it seems like there is "a new dramatic development" regarding President Trump's border wall. This includes revelations his recent move to bar transgender people from the military was about "getting money to start building" the wall. Collins says Trump's vision for the wall keeps shifting and that it is unclear whether he thinks a wall "would do any good." She says "he certainly believes it makes him look good" and that "its all about image." She argues there is a "minimal" change the \$20 billion wall will be built and that "keeping up pretenses will mean an enormous waste of money and effort."

### **Axios' Swan: Government May Shut Down Over Border Wall Funding Fight.**

Jonathan Swan of [Axios](#) (8/6) reports that "sources inside and close to Republican Hill leadership...say there's a good chance of a government shutdown before the end of the year because of deep rifts over spending priorities. No one sees" President Trump's proposed US-Mexico border wall "getting much more than a symbolic nod." Swan writes that congressional leaders "have discussed ways to get Trump 'enough' on border security so he feels they're making enough progress to sign their funding bills," but the President "will accept no substitutes to a huge, long, physical wall, which he believes his voters viscerally want."

### **Infrastructure Borrowing Down As State, Local Governments Await Federal Plan.**

[Reuters](#) (8/6, Respaut, Russ) says that while President Trump took office "having promised a bold \$1 trillion infrastructure investment plan over 10 years," the Administration "has produced few details on the future of federal infrastructure funding, one reason why state and municipal governments have issued fewer bonds to improve roads, water systems and other projects so far in 2017." According to James Grabovac, a managing director at McDonnell Investment Management, "state and local governments may be 'reluctant to engage in long-term infrastructure financing given that there's a promise of a trillion-dollar federal investment program somewhere on the horizon.'" Reuters adds that the lack of "infrastructure-related bond issuance has left a 'bond picker's market,' with more buyers than sellers."

**NYTimes: Trump's Infrastructure Promise "Hollow As A Pothole."** In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (8/6) calls Trump's campaign promise of "a \$1 trillion investment" in infrastructure "one of the few practical job-building promises of the Trump presidential campaign," but adds that it is "turning out to be as hollow as a pothole" as Republicans "now concede that a fully detailed plan might not surface from the administration until next year, if ever."

### **WSJournal A1: Regulator Penalties On Wall Street Down In Trump's First Six Months.**

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/6, A1, Eaglesham, Michaels, Dougherty) reports in a front-page analysis that in the first six months of the Trump Administration, Wall Street regulators have imposed lower penalties than in the first six months of 2016. Lawyers who defend financial cases attribute the decline to a more business-friendly agency stance under President Trump as well as delays due to the change in administrations and a slowing of cases from the financial crisis.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/6) argues in an editorial that acting US Attorney Joon Kim made the right decision in dismissing charges against former J.P. Morgan Chase traders Javier Martin-Artajo and Julien Grout.

### **Cohn: US Must Cut Corporate Tax Rate To Below 23 Percent.**

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/4, Leondis) reports National Economic Council Director Cohn in a Bloomberg TV interview Friday "suggested that the U.S. must cut its corporate tax rate by at least a third to compete with other developed countries." Cohn asserted, "We cannot be substantially higher than the OECD average tax rate," which is about 23 percent. Cohn added, "We've got to get in line with the rest of the world, we've got to entice capital to be invested in the United States." Cohn said, "My No. 1 priority for now until the end of the year is taxes. My second priority is taxes. And if you're confused, my third priority is taxes." According to Bloomberg, "Cohn's comments...may signal President Donald Trump's call for a 15 percent corporate rate – which would represent a far larger cut – is a starting point for negotiations as the administration and congressional tax writers begin drafting legislation."

**Short: White House "Confident" Democrats Will Support Tax Reform.** "Worried about the Republican Senate's inability to deliver on big campaign promises, the White House and its allies are making a strong push to get at least three vulnerable Senate Democrats to back the administration's tax reform agenda," [McClatchy](#) (8/4, Clark) reports, according to White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short, who said, "We are confident right now that we will be able to earn [Democrats'] support with our tax reform agenda." Short added the White House has "learned how difficult it is to thread the needle with 52 senators." McClatchy notes "Republicans were particularly cheered when Democratic Sens. Joe Donnelly of Indiana, Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota and Joe Manchin of West Virginia declined to sign a Senate Democratic caucus letter to Trump and congressional leaders detailing what is not acceptable in a tax plan, notably a tax cut for the top 1 percent of Americans. Every other Democrat and the two senators who caucus with them signed the letter."

**Administration Is Considering Lowering Mortgage Deduction.** [Politico](#) (8/4, Wilhelm) reports that "despite promises from the Trump administration in April that it would 'protect the

homeownership...deductions,' multiple sources tracking tax reform said that the cap on the mortgage interest deduction – currently set at the interest on up to \$1 million of mortgage debt – could be lowered in tax reform." Politico says such an action "would be a slap in the face to an industry that strongly supported President Donald Trump during his presidential bid." According to Politico, Cohn "and his lead deputy on tax reform, Shahira Knight," presided over a White House roundtable on tax reform on Monday and one attendee said, "'They're willing to ruffle some feathers. ... Everything was on the table,' including capping the deduction that the Trump administration has said it would preserve."

**Hatch: Attaining Trump's Tax Reform Goals Would Be "Miraculous."** The [New York Post](#) (8/6, Schultz) reports that Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch said in Sunday that "it would be 'miraculous' if President Trump could achieve his lower tax brackets for Americans." On Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures," Hatch "cast doubt on the ability of Congress to pass legislation to lower tax rates to 10 percent, 25 percent and 35 percent." Said Hatch, "If we could get to those rates that would be miraculous." Hatch likewise, "poured cold water on Trump's plans to lower the corporate tax rate to 15 percent," saying, "We'd be lucky if we could get the corporate tax rate down to 20 percent, even 25 percent. ... But we're going to try. We're going to have to have some Democrat help to do it, so far that hasn't been materializing." Hatch also "said the wealthy shouldn't be optimistic either," warning, "They're not going to get anything – hardly anything – out of any tax reform that we do."

**Samuelson: Economic Growth Predictions Should Be Viewed With Skepticism.** In his [Washington Post](#) (8/6) column, Robert J. Samuelson writes that the White House's projected annual inflation-adjusted 3 percent GDP growth over the next decade should be viewed with some skepticism, noting that many economists assert that an aging population and slumping productivity will contribute to slower growth in the coming years. Samuelson adds, however, that observers generally should view economists' predictions of productivity with a degree of doubt because economists "have failed to predict major productivity changes" in the past. He concludes that the growth debate's larger significance is that growth will not likely support the White House's budget ambitions and that the country "can no longer grow" its way "out of serious conflicts."

### **US Formally Notifies UN Of Withdrawal From Paris Climate Deal.**

The [Financial Times](#) (8/6, Crooks) reported that on Friday, the US State Department submitted notification to the UN that the US will withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, formalizing President Donald Trump's June announcement.

### **Obama Administration Spent Over \$300,000 On Climate Change Museum.**

[Breitbart](#) (8/5, Starr) reports the Obama Administration spent over \$300,000 to create a climate change museum in Washington, DC in its final days. Breitbart says that according to the Washington Post, the museum was a "pet project" of former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, and was designed to focus on "an Obama administration-centric narrative." Nancy Grantham, the EPA employee that brought the museum to the attention of the Trump Administration, conceded that many of the museum's panels focused on the prior Administration and climate change may "be altered and possibly shelved."

## **Editorial Wrap-Up**

---

### **New York Times.**

"**Trying To Make America A Little Better.**" In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (8/6) calls President Trump's campaign promise of "a \$1 trillion investment" in infrastructure "one of the few practical job-building promises of the Trump presidential campaign," but adds that it is "turning out to be as hollow as a pothole" as Republicans "now concede that a fully detailed plan might not surface from the administration until next year, if ever."

"**Trump Embraces A Senseless Immigration Proposal.**" In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (8/7, Board) says a bill introduced by Republican Sens. Tom Cotton and David Perdue "would slash the total number of green cards issued by 41 percent in the first year and by 50 percent in the 10th year, with most of the cuts coming from family-based immigration." President Trump has endorsed the proposal, but the Times argues it "would do nothing to solve the country's immigration and economic challenges." Instead of taking a hostile position on immigration, the Times says, a better approach "to immigration reform would be bipartisan and comprehensive,"

and "include stronger enforcement, better worker protections and a pathway to citizenship for the country's 11 million unauthorized immigrants."

### **Washington Post.**

**"Does The Nation Still Need Affirmative Action?"** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/6) writes that the racial makeup of university students has changed modestly in recent years, with African American enrollment increasing from 32 to 35 percent from 2003 to 2015, Latino enrollment increasing from 24 percent to 37 percent, and white enrollment increasing by 15 percent. With these figures in mind in the context of the Justice Department's examination into affirmative action policies, the Post argues that a wider federal effort "challenging affirmative action policies would represent a drastic change in the department's priorities and, if the idea was to protect whites, a perversion of civil rights law meant to protect disadvantaged minority groups."

**"Police Chiefs Need The Freedom To Weed Out Bad Cops."** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/6) writes that police chiefs should have the authority to fire officers in their ranks guilty of misconduct without the heavy influence of arbitrators pushing the reinstatement of problem officers following appeals required by union contracts. Although the Post acknowledges that "some of the responsibility for having to reinstate undesirable officers falls on police agencies that make careless errors during disciplinary proceedings," it adds that there is "a tilt in the system that makes it difficult to hold officers accountable for bad acts."

**"Trump Promised A Trade War. Here's What He's Doing Instead."** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/6) writes that the Administration's NAFTA negotiation objectives laid out in a July 17 report to Congress "were in many respects necessary and proper" despite the President's past rhetoric towards the trade agreement. The Post adds that trade experts say the negotiating blueprint has many similarities to the objectives established in the TPP talks but does include a harmful provision calling for the elimination of Chapter 19 of NAFTA's dispute-resolution mechanism – a provision the Post concludes would constitute a "dealbreaker" for Canada.

### **Wall Street Journal.**

**"The United Auto Workers Lose Again."** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/6) writes that the 2-to-1 vote late last week at a Canton, Mississippi Nissan plant against unionizing under the United Automobile Workers marks a defeat for a campaign characterized by race-baiting and for an effort to effect stifling work rules on a factory that has created jobs and lifted wages in the community. The Journal concludes that the reason for the UAW's failure to organize workers in the South is that workers increasingly think that a union does not offer much and places their jobs at risk against global competition.

**"The Morgan Whale That Got Away."** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/6) argues in an editorial that acting US Attorney Joon Kim made the right decision in dismissing charges against former J.P. Morgan Chase traders Javier Martin-Artajo and Julien Grout.

## **Big Picture**

---

### **Headlines From Today's Front Pages.**

#### **Wall Street Journal:**

[Recess, Full Plate Keep Heat On GOP Lawmakers](#)  
[Penalties Against Wall Street Are Down Sharply In 2017](#)  
[Egypt's Leader Makes A Risky Bet On The Healing Power Of Economic Pain](#)  
[North Korea Sanctions Race With Pyongyang's Missile Development](#)

#### **New York Times:**

[Under Trump, Coal Mining Gets New Life On US Lands](#)  
[US Troops Train In Eastern Europe To Echoes Of The Cold War](#)  
[Bill De Blasio Will Push For Tax On Wealthy To Fix Subway](#)  
[Take The Generic, Patients Are Told. Until They Are Not.](#)  
[Weaning Itself From Elephant Ivory, China Turns To Mammoths](#)  
[Diplomats Question Tactics Of Tillerson, The Executive Turned Secretary Of State](#)

#### **Washington Post:**

[Administration Offers Scant Details On ACA Enrollment](#)  
[Trapped, Jobless And Bored: Gaza's Wasted Generation](#)  
[Fix For Schools Remains Elusive](#)  
[Republican Governors Stir Tension On Policing](#)  
[North Korea Can Show It's Ready For Negotiations By Stopping Missile Launches](#)

**Financial Times:**

[US Haul From Credit Crisis Bank Fines Hits \\$150bn](#)  
[German Party Hit By 'Dieselgate' Whitewash Claims](#)

**Washington Times:**

['This Is A War': Trump Goes On Offensive To Spread Distrust Of Mueller Investigation](#)  
[Trump's Deals In Russia Once Encouraged Even By Clintons Now Under Scrutiny](#)  
[Trump's Former Las Vegas Cohorts Gird For Battle To Stop His Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Plan](#)  
[After U.S. Experience, Germans Brace For Russian Election Mischief And Fake News](#)  
[DeVos Dedicated To Empowering Local Schools Against Federal Bureaucracy](#)  
[With Republican Turnaround, State Legislatures Now Foil Liberal Ballot Measures](#)

**Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:**

**ABC:** Severe Weather; WH-Russia Meddling Investigation; Vice President Pence-2020 Campaign Comment; Ohio-Escapee Manhunt; Australia-US Marines Accident; Italy-UK Model Abduction Attempt; Florida-Sinkhole; Taylor Swift-DJ Groping Lawsuit; Eiffel Tower-Terror Scare; California-Chemical Leak; Ohio State Fair-Ride Accident; Wingsuit Video; Maine Lobstermen.  
**CBS:** North Korea-UN Sanctions; WH Staff Shakeup-Expert Comment; Vice President Pence-2020 Campaign Comment; Australia-US Marines Accident; Sanctuary Cities Crack Down; Severe Weather; US College-Affirmative Actions; Chicago Gun Violence; Drinking Water Safety; Teenage Drivers-Risk; Ocean Mammals-Approach Ban.  
**NBC:** Severe Weather; North Korea-US Responses; Vice President Pence-2020 Campaign Comment; WH-Russia Meddling Investigation; NATO-Russia Tension; Minnesota-Mosque Bombing; Philly Inbound Flight-Severe Turbulence; Ohio State Fair-Ride Accident; Cross Border Dental Care; Commercials-Racial Biases; Girls' Baseball Team.

**Network TV At A Glance:**

Severe Weather – 5 minutes, 45 seconds  
North Korea Missile Test-Responses – 4 minutes, 50 seconds  
WH-Russia Meddling Investigation – 4 minutes  
Vice President Pence-2020 Campaign Comment – 2 minutes, 20 seconds  
Australia-US Marines Accident – 1 minute, 55 seconds

**Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:**

**ABC:** Sanctuary Cities Crack Down; North Korea Missile Test-Responses; Justice Dept-Intel Leaks; Ohio State Fair-Ride Accident.  
**CBS:** North Korea Missile Test-Responses; Vice President Pence-2020 Campaign Comment; Sanctuary Cities Crack Down; Minnesota-Mosque Bombing; Wall Street News.  
**FOX:** North Korea Missile Test-Responses; Vice President Pence-2020 Campaign Comment; Severe Weather; Minnesota-Mosque Bombing.  
**NPR:** Sanctuary Cities Crack Down; Israel-Al Jazeera Ban; Minnesota-Mosque Bombing; Vice President Pence-2020 Campaign Comment; Trump-South Korea Call.

## Washington Schedule

---

### Today's Events In Washington.

**White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — No public events scheduled.  
VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Has lunch with Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos; participates in a meet-and-greet with Department of Education staff.

**US Senate:** On Recess until 5 September.

**US House:** On Recess until 5 September.

**Other:** Congressional Budget Office releases 'Monthly Budget Review for July 2017' report  
Location: TBD [www.cbo.gov/](http://www.cbo.gov/) <https://twitter.com/USCBO>

## Last Laughs

---

### Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

**Copyright 2017 by Bulletin Intelligence LLC** Reproduction or redistribution without permission prohibited. Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at [BulletinIntelligence.com](#), or called at (703) 483-6100.